



# Title: Innovative Clinical Training for Infectious Disease Management in Resource-limited Settings: The Lassa Fever Clinical Management Fellowship (LFCMF) Model

## Authors:

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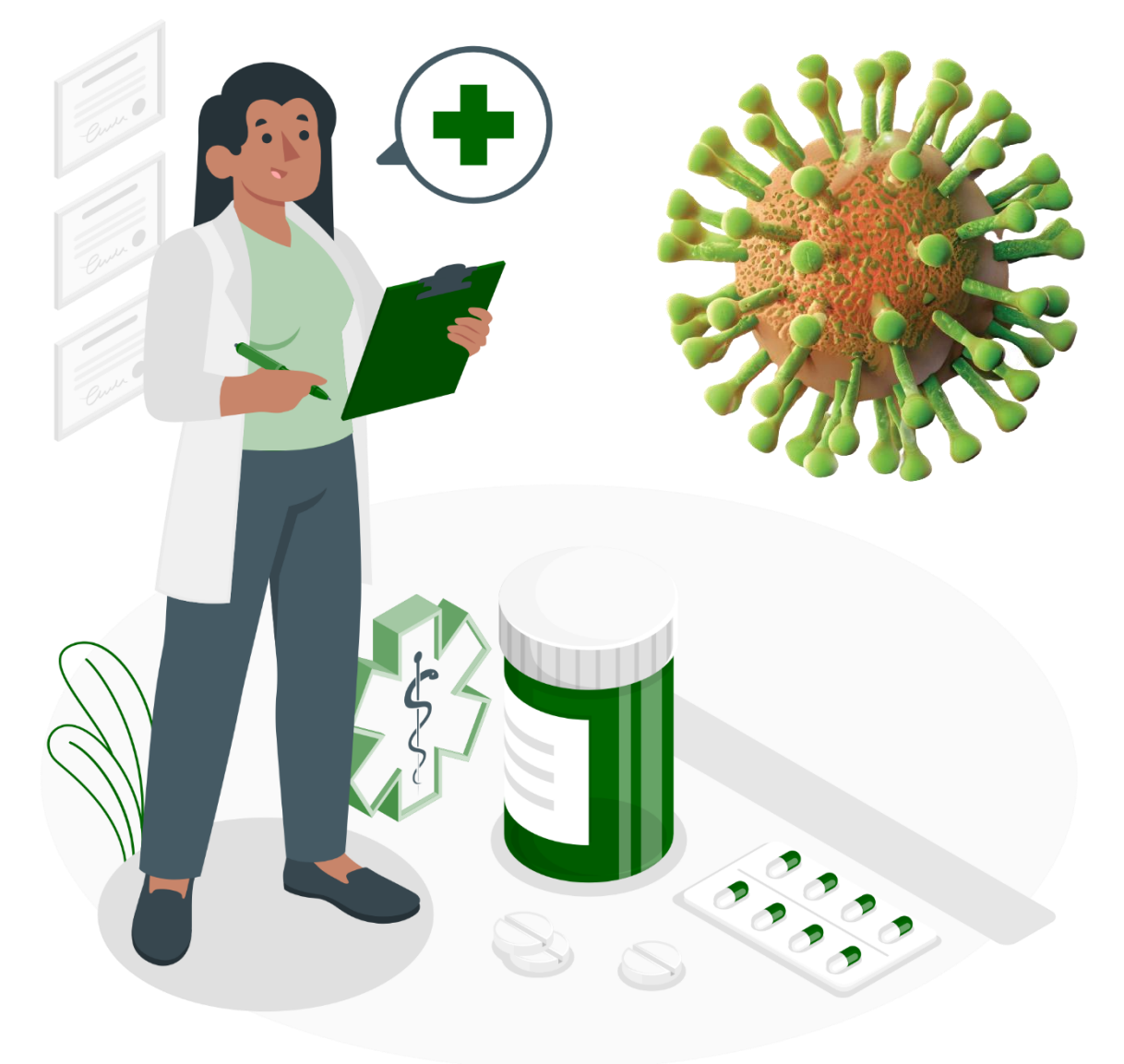
## Background

- Lassa fever (LF) remains endemic in West Africa and challenges health systems as frontline clinicians lack specialized training in managing viral haemorrhagic fevers.
- Traditional approaches often fall short in addressing local realities or building sustained capacity. The Lassa Fever Clinical Management Fellowship (LFCMF) was developed to bridge this gap.
- This study assessed the effectiveness of the LFCMF in strengthening clinical capacity for LF, whilst exploring its potential as a replicable model for other infectious diseases.



## Methods

- A descriptive mixed-method study was conducted between August and September 2023 in Nigeria, for clinicians from LF treatment centres in endemic states.
- Eligibility criteria included prior clinical experience and the capacity to mentor post-fellowship. The fellowship was a hybrid of didactic sessions, clinical rotations, and mentorship.
- Clinical skills assessment focused on clinical knowledge, diagnostic accuracy, and adherence to treatment and infection prevention protocols.
- One-on-one interviews were conducted to explore their experiences, perceived impact, and intentions to apply the model in their home institutions.



## Results

- Post-training assessments among 12 clinicians showed a 19% average improvement in knowledge of LF clinical management for mild and complicated cases.
- Qualitative analysis highlighted the impact of hands-on exposure to multidisciplinary LF care, as participants shared their understanding of integrated and holistic LF care and increased confidence in case management.
- About 80% expressed a strong interest in cascading the training at their centres, emphasizing the value of consistent clinical exposure and real-time application of national guidelines.
- These transformative elements directly apply to their practice.



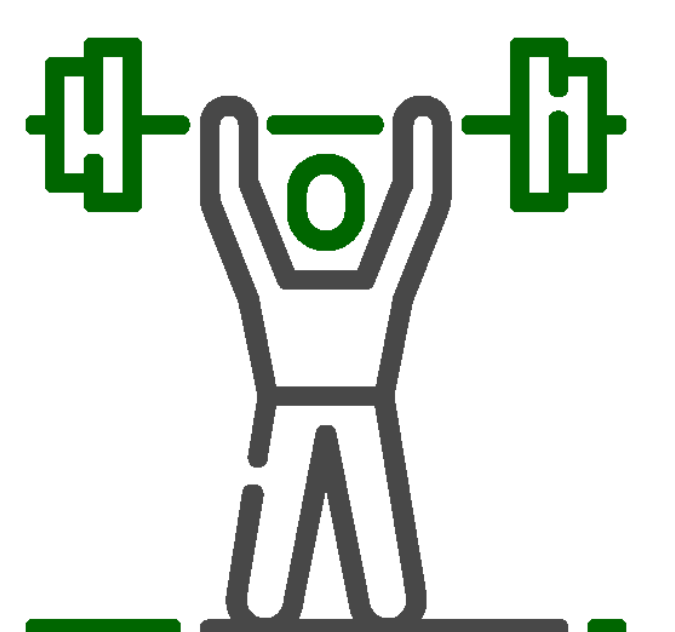
**12** Clinicians

**19%**  
Average Improvement

**80%**  
Average Improvement

## Conclusions and Recommendations

- The LFCMF demonstrates that targeted, practical training programs can significantly strengthen frontline clinical capacity in resource-limited settings.
- This model offers a scalable and adaptable framework for enhancing preparedness and response for outbreaks of other infectious diseases.



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